

NEW YEAR Over There



An Every-day Scene in the Reading Room of the Y.M.C.A. in Paris



Boys Wearing Uniforms at Y.M.C.A. But to Go on the New Year Show



Curtain Decorated by an American Soldier for New Year's Show in a Y.M.C.A. Hall in France

Elaborate Plans Made To Amuse Our Soldiers On France's Great Feast Day—Many Entertainments

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THE DAWN of another New Year will be the brightest for several years past. It will find all nations with a determination to prevent, if possible, a repetition of the carnage and destruction of the last few years and it will, let us all hope, find in all peoples a desire to live in peace and harmony with one another. The sadness caused by the war has been unmeasurable and the heartaches so poignant as to be beyond healing, but amid them all there will be rejoicing at what has been achieved and the millions of gallant sons "over there" will welcome the coming of the New Year destined to be the greatest epoch-making period of modern times.

Policing Europe

Many will remain in Europe for some time as different parts of the continent will need policing, the effect

of the morale of our troops will be excellent, and while the New Year will come to them in a foreign land they will have a joyful time, for our own government, as well as those of other lands, will shower them with favors.

The French are still the volatile people of old, and New Year's Day more than Christmas is their great festival. Of course, our troops will have their big dinner. In some places the food will be cooked in the "goulash cannon" as the moving cooking wagon is called, and while the courses may not be as many over here they will be none the less tasty and plentiful. There is always a "Y" hut or a Salvation shelter near by and everything can be obtained there. Letters and boxes from home, many of which were started from there for Christmas, will arrive to cheer the boys.

Long ago it was conceded by all na-

tions that the coming of the Yanks saved the world from German militarism and although the peasants have been impoverished they will try in their humble way to prove their gratitude to the men who came from the United States. The French peasants form a large part of the French Army and through the Yanks many of these men will get home in time to spend their favorite holiday with their wives and children. Naturally our boys like Christmas best but they will do no little frolic during the entire holiday week and top it off with a good old-fashioned New Year's Day.

Baseball has become especially popular in rural France and if it is not too cold there are to be a number of big games. Football too will be played. The various associations have promised a large supply of cigarettes and chocolate for the day—real American cigarettes, not the "fags" so much

enjoyed by the British Tommies but those made of real tobacco.

Men of all classes will be there and the man who used to give over the day to calling and going to dances at night may be able to do the same things in France for the French girls idolize our boys. In some of the American camps cold weather is sure to prevail but the wet trenches are abandoned and they may enjoy winter sports to their hearts' delight with plenty of the delicious French coffee to warm them at any time.

One of the things prevalent all over France is the giving of New Year's gifts and in every small village there is a market at which gifts are sold.

Our boys are great sportsmen and those whose duty is in the country will make up parties and go hunting, for it is said that much game is still to be found and at one camp the Salvation

Ladies will make rabbit pot-pie as long as the rabbits hold out. Their pies and doughnuts have long been famous with the Army and although Uncle Sam may provide a splendid dinner it will not be complete without the Salvation Army's dainties. These good people have the happy faculty of mixing religion and food together and many a man will come home a far better man through the influence of these ladies, who all during the war have provided something different in the way of food almost directly at the front.

At Y. M. C. A. Huts

At the Y. M. C. A. huts some of the boys who like indoor sports will play billiards and listen to the victrolas. The United States has many hands with their troops and if the weather is good these hands will give concerts in the public square of the village to which their unit is assigned. There

will be little drilling for long ago our Army officers learned that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," so the soldiers are given all the holidays possible.

In Paris

New Year's Day is one of real enjoyments in Paris, that beautiful city saved from the ravishing hands of the Hun and the citizens will enjoy it to the fullest extent. The French New Year's Day is a remnant of Paganism, for it comes from the Druids who always held a great festival at that time. How different will be the one this year than that of 1871 when the Huns were besieging Paris. It happened to be bitter cold that year. The Seine was filled with ice and the bodies of dead soldiers who fell in defending the city lay outside the walls unburied. The most hopeful dared not forecast the future at that dark hour, yet today France has risen stronger and greater than ever and our Yanks who may be so fortunate as to spend New Year's Day in that city will enjoy some wonderful sights.

The President and the different cabinet ministers will hold receptions and doubtless our President and our other officials who are attending the peace congress will attend. French society is seen here at its best. The great boulevards are always thronged and if the weather is mild, as is usually the case at that period of the year, one may dine at the outdoor cafes and watch the world for people of every nation seem to live in Paris. Gayety reigns supreme there and this year it promises to be especially gay.

The theatres will be open and Oh! what stories of the French shows the boys will be able to tell us when they return. Nothing will be too good for our boys at the splendid Y. M. C. A. headquarters in Paris, and there will be open house. Our wounded will be cheered by extra dinners and musical entertainments by American artists.

Unfortunately there are no "hostess houses" like those of our cantonments

and the soldier who has fallen in love with a French girl is unable to meet her under such happy auspices, but as the French girl has been so used to seeing soldiers for the last four years and having them billeted at her home a mere matter of chaperonage will not bother her to any great extent, and our boys will follow the old phrase "when you are in Rome do as the Romans do." So our customs are not likely to mar the happiness of either party. The American soldier has come to be so respected in France that he is welcome anywhere and whenever he has a holiday the latch string is out for his entertainment. New Year's day to the French is very like the Saturnalia of the Romans and everyone goes out for a good time.

Movies Are Popular

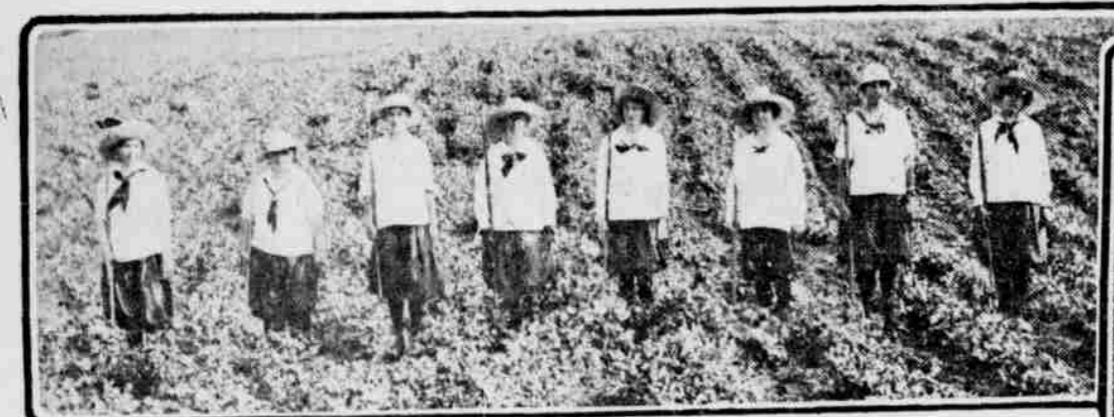
Of course, there will be movies everywhere and the American movie stars will be seen. Perhaps the old Douglas Fairbanks' picture left by the Germans in their hurried retreat will be brought out to amuse the crowd. One thing is certain and that is that the boys will see themselves for special films will have been made of their activities for this day. Some of our boys are known to have fine voices as well as to be able to play on string instruments and concerts will be given for the French in many towns. The New Year's Day songs are original and will take the place of Christmas carols.

On the whole the New Year's festivities "over there" will vie with the ones of Thanksgiving and Christmas. All America hopes that are another New Year's Day rolls around nearly all of the Yanks will have returned to our glorious land to enjoy the day with loved ones at home. Those who remain to assist in the duties imposed by the Peace Congress and those who stay to help rebuild the waste places of France and Belgium will find conditions still more favorable for a more glorious celebration of the dawn of the New Year of 1920.

19 OLD or YOUNG 19

They Must Have FOOD

It Is The Big Question This Year.



A Group of Girl Gardeners

The War Is Over—Now for Reconstruction—Great Things Are In Store for Us—Food Problems

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THE GREATEST year in the world's history is just ahead of us. Most momentous have been the happenings of 1918. What is going to happen during 1919? That is the question which everybody in the world is anxious to have answered. The questions of 1918 were answered satisfactorily to most of the inhabitants of the world. Of course, William Hindenburg, Hindenburg and those of their ilk were disappointed at the turn things took; but that'll be alright to the rest of us.

In the maze of reconstruction which lies ahead it may be hard to divide in some cases which is the knottiest problem to tackle. There are a number that will require considerable wrestling before we put both shoulders on the mat. But there are big minds now working over most of these questions. The war has developed much to think along higher lines and to make more apparently insurmountable obstacles than would have seemed possible a few years ago. What American business men and American Army and Navy officers have accomplished in the past is pretty sure evidence of what they can do in the future. Therefore, let us look ahead with confidence. That is the main thing, for the world is built on belief and faith and confidence in our fellow men.

A World United

No country now can live unto itself. The war has shown how closely united are the various nations of the globe and that when one suffers the others suffer with it. The world viewpoint has come to stay. Never again will the nations go back to their narrow way of living. And this is particularly true of the United States. Before the war it had thought little of how the rest of the world lived. With its own vast area and resources it had gone along, pretty well satisfied to look after its domestic affairs and let those of other

countries take care of themselves. In business and in politics this country did not bother much with what was going on in Europe and in Asia.

Now, however, there is nothing of more interest to the people of this country than the problems over which the European nations also are struggling. The first of these, the one of most immediate concern is that relating to the outcome of the peace conference. Upon that hangs the answer to many other questions which are pressing for answer. The signing of the peace treaty will not solve all the problems which are vexing the world, but it will be the first big step in helping to restore normal and stable conditions. When the terms on which the world is to live are known, it will be possible to go ahead intelligently with much of the vast reconstruction work which has to be done.

As a matter of fact, it has not been necessary to wait on this agreement and much is being done looking to the re-establishment of the world on a peace basis. As President Wilson said in his message at the opening of Congress just before he sailed for Europe, referring to what the business men of the country were doing: "It is surprising how fast the process of return to a peace basis has moved in the three weeks since the fighting stopped. It promises to outrun any inquiry that may be instituted and any aid that may be offered. It will not be easy to direct it any better than it will direct itself. The American business man is of quick initiative."

The speed with which the manufacturers and the business men of the United States transformed their plants from a peace to a war basis, will it is confidently believed be shown in their return to normal conditions. The experience which they have gained will stand them in good stead in accomplishing this big task. This will help to take care of the labor problem

which has caused some concern and of the placing of returning soldiers once more in gainful occupations.

Absorbing The Army

One of the greatest feats of the year which is just opening will be the return to these shores of the greater part of the American Army which went to France and is melting back into the civil life of the nation. This will be a transformation that will be watched everywhere with great interest. It will be an accomplishment such as has never before been performed in the history of the world, but it is believed it will be done without upsetting to any great extent economic conditions.

What will become of the more than 2,000,000 men who were in the American Army at the time the armistice was signed, almost 2,000,000 of whom were in France, while the rest were in training camps all over the United States? That is a question which has been on the lips of nearly every citizen in the country. It is no wonder that many people have thought there would be trouble in finding places for all these men and yet it is believed that there will be occupations open to all of them as fast as they can be dismissed from the service. A majority of them will return to their former positions in office and shop, on the farm and in factory, and in various lines of industry. Others will seek new fields. In many cases the experience and the education which they have gained as a result of their military training will fit them for better positions than they occupied previously.

Motor And Airplane Men Will Fill A Great Need

If there is one thing more than another in which many of the American soldiers have had valuable training, it is in driving motor trucks. Transportation has been one of the big factors

of army preparation. In many cases the delivery of munitions and material meant the difference between the winning or the losing of a battle. Speed was the essence of proper preparation. On that account the drivers in the Army were taught to handle their motor trucks like a skilled engineer handles his train. They had to know all there was about the care and the keeping of their machines. These men and there are thousands of them—will now be able to perform a most valuable service at home. More and more the transportation problem is becoming an important one. The post office department is taking it up on a big scale in establishing mail and parcel post routes all over the country. Furthermore the aerial mail service is being expanded, and it is probable that the end of this year will see hundreds if not thousands of white-winged messengers of the sky speeding along the open airways daily delivering tons of mail of all sorts. In this service a lot of army men will find a satisfactory field and will delight to continue the work which they started on Uncle Sam's payroll, simply transferring it to another department.



Everybody Attention! Ready For Victory Gardens in Philadelphia



Bringing the Boy Up Right



Had Their Own Garden in Addition to Helping Father and Mother in Their War Garden

now; but that they will be of world-wide significance and importance is certain. With the opening of a new year the world looks forward eagerly to know what it will bring of good and bad. That there will be some bad is certain. The world could not have passed for more than four years through the throes of a devastating conflict without some evil consequences.

Food Shortage

The greatest of these is the food shortage. Empty bins and granaries cannot be replenished in a week or a month. On this account there will be suffering and famine. This cannot be avoided. How far-reaching it will be depends to no considerable degree upon America. There must be continued conservation and production in this country in order to keep the monster famine from taking too large a toll of lives in the famine-stricken districts of Europe and Asia. Food is the foundation of all human activity; and other conditions, political, social and economic, will be affected by the prevailing food situation. The more food there is, therefore, the less will be the other problems of the world. Pestilence and anarchy are bred by hunger.

The United States Food Administration has forcibly directed the thought and the attention of the country to the necessity on the part of the American people of continued conservation of food if starving Belgium and Poland and Serbia and Armenia are to be fed. There will be conservation, of that there is no doubt, but in order that there may be conservation there must also be production. The two go hand in hand. The farmers will do their share, as they have in the past, to meet the call made upon them. But every square foot of land in the United States which is capable of producing food should be put to work. This is the reason why the National War Garden Commission of Washington has issued an appeal to the "city farmers," the war gardeners of 1917 and 1918 to become the "Victory Gardeners" of 1919. With the new millions to be fed in Europe the need for food this coming year will be greater than during the war and there is more need for Victory Gardens, says the call, than there was for war gardens. The hope is expressed that the 5,250,000 war gardeners of last season will be multiplied by two and that there will be 10,000,000 home food plots in the United States in 1919, that there will not be a vacant lot or back yard anywhere, no matter how large or how small, no matter whether it produces a pound or a ton of food, that will not be cultivated to help win the war which is now on, the world war for food.

Victory Gardens

Many cities and towns throughout the United States surprised themselves in 1918 when they came to count up the number of war gardens that had been planted. For instance, Boston set out in the spring with the idea that it could reach at least 15,000 home gardens. It doubled this figure and made it more than 30,000. Similarly in other places. In the same way, many cities and towns if they set about it determinedly can conduct a campaign this year which will result in the planting of a far larger number of Victory Gardens than is now thought possible. At any rate, even if the number of gardens is not increased, there should be greater intensity of development and larger results, for the experiences which the home food growers have gained during the past two years will stand them in good stead and aid them to raise large crops to help feed a hungry world.

That Hour Of Daylight

Daylight Saving will be in force again this year, for the law when it was passed early last spring provided that on the last Sunday of March "each year" the clocks of the nation should be pushed forward an hour, to remain so until 2 o'clock A. M. on the last Sunday in October. This means, therefore, that the gardeners will have the benefit in 1919 of the extra hour of daylight in the afternoon which helped them so much during the last season. According to estimates the working of this law added anywhere from 25 to 50 per cent. to the efficiency and the productive power of the home food growers.

Let every man and woman find his place. The great danger is in the "let down." At the call to war the nation answered. "Peace hath its victories no less renowned than war" so let us all to the great work of reconstruction. NOT reconstruction, for we will not build as we were; we will build after a new pattern the corner stone of which is the brotherhood of man.